

medical examiners, but several chapters will be of particular value to those examining victims of sexual assault. The chapter on fundamental principles is a useful overview that includes consent as well as pertinent but brief advice on preparation of reports and attendance at court. The chapter on sexual assault examination is generally excellent, giving detailed descriptions of the methods for taking and handling samples, and summarising studies relevant to the interpretation of findings. Although most of the advice is clear, there are exceptions; for example, people frequently ask whether it is still worth taking forensic samples a week or more after the assault, and this information is hard to tease out from the section on persistence data. The chapter includes a succinct section on sexually transmitted infections which summarises current debate on prophylaxis against bacterial infections, hepatitis B, and HIV, but stops short of giving any recommendations for immediate care or later referral. It is a sign of how rapidly the field is moving that drug assisted rape, now so widely discussed in the media, is mentioned only briefly. The drugs γ -hydroxy butyrate and ketamine are discussed in the section on substance misuse, but not in relation to sexual assault.

Doctors working in sexual health are often inexperienced in the interpretation of injuries, but such expertise is crucial for forensic work. Crane's chapter is authoritative and intelligible on common areas of difficulty—for example, the differences between abrasions, lacerations, and incisions, and the possible interpretations of these injuries.

I was delighted to receive a review copy of this book. Otherwise I would certainly have bought one, and would recommend it to others with a medicolegal interest.

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Sexually Transmitted Diseases. 3rd ed. Ed King K Holmes, P Frederick Sparling, Per-Anders Mardh, Stanley M Lemon, Walter E Stamm, Peter Piot, Judith N Wasserheit. \$170.50. New York: McGraw Hill, 1999. ISBN 0-07-029688-X.

The new edition of this classic is long overdue. It would be no exaggeration to say that the readers will not be disappointed. The basic layout and chapters' sequence are similar to the 1990 edition, but with the introduction of several sections to each of the 10 parts of the book. This new structure allows better grouping of topics and concepts, and makes referencing extremely easy from the list of contents. Prime examples of this are chapters dealing with HIV infection, which are grouped under their own designated sections, rather than being part of a subsection of viral STDs, as was in earlier editions.

The new edition contains 107 chapters, with expanded sections on socioeconomic impact of STD, epidemiology in both developed and developing world, sexuality and behaviour profiles of groups in need of intervention. Further chapters towards the end of the book devote entirely to STD/HIV prevention in a global context. Finally, legal, political, and ethical issues were dealt with in depth. My only regret is the omission of the chapters on anatomy of the normal genital tracts. However, normal genital flora and mucosal defences are well covered. These are in addition to the extremely comprehensive

review of the medical aspect of STD/HIV management. The most impressive aspect of this book, despite its size and time taken to press, is the updated information available, especially pertaining to antiretroviral therapy and drug interactions. The appendix with list of internet resources further allows readers to obtain necessary state of the art information.

This book is one of the "must have" books for any clinicians dealing with these infections, and an essential reference book for any medical library. It is also a valuable source of compact information for anyone whose work requires an understanding of issues surrounding STD/HIV, including epidemiologists, sociologists, behaviour scientists, policymakers, and politicians, to name just a few.

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WEBSITE REVIEW

IHMF website. The website of the International Herpes Management Forum can be found at <http://www.IHMF.org>

The range of the website is greater than I expected, covering CMV, EBV, HHV-6, 7, and 8, varicella, as well as HSV-1 and HSV-2. The search option gives a rapid indication of the scale of the site. I was impressed with the search by "free text query." My 20 word query concerning recurrent herpes in the third trimester revealed 162 relevant references on the website.

The website contains a library consisting of recent papers and a series of monographs produced by the IHMF. Arising out of these monographs are management guidelines on various aspects of herpes viruses. Updates on key issues are to be found in the *Herpes Journal*, published three times a year, and reproduced in full on this site.

Further useful aspects of this site include PowerPoint slides, which can be downloaded, covering background scientific information as well as some presentations of IHMF meetings. Abstracts from these meetings may also be downloaded as well as posters summarising recommendations. A list of forthcoming events and reports from past meetings can also be accessed.

Another section on this site allows you to click anywhere on a world map to find organisations working on herpes. A click in the UK revealed the MSSVD, the Herpes Special Interest Group, and the British Co-operative Clinical Group.

This site is useful in many ways and provides an authoritative source of information. There is a section for feedback so that users of the site can contribute to keeping it accurate and up to date.

CHRIS CARNE

NOTICES

International Herpes Alliance and International Herpes Management Forum

The International Herpes Alliance has introduced a website (www.herpesalliance.org) from which can be downloaded patient information leaflets. Its sister organisation the International Herpes Management Forum (website: www.IHMF.org) has launched new guidelines on the management of herpesvirus infections in pregnancy at the 9th International Congress on Infectious Disease (ICID) in Buenos Aires.

Pan-American Health Organization, regional office of the World Health Organization

A catalogue of publications is available online (www.paho.org). The monthly journal of PAHO, the Pan American Journal of Public Health, is also available (subscriptions: pubsvc@tsp.sheridan.com).

Royal Society of Medicine and National Institutes of Health International Conference, RSM London, 7-8 December 2000

The RSM in London, UK, and the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland, US, are organising an international conference to be held at the RSM on "New trends in HIV management and research." Further details: Victoria Boswell, Academic Conference Assistant, Royal Society of Medicine (tel: +44 (0)20 7290 2965; fax: +44 (0)20 7290 2977; email: victoria.boswell@roysocmed.ac.uk).

International Symposium on Disorders of the Prostate, 21-23 March 2001, Castres, France

Further details: Dr Mike Briley, Scientific Director, Pierre Fabre Medicament, Parc Industriel de la Chartreuse, F-81106 Castres Cedex, France (tel: +33 563 714 501; fax: +33 563 725; email: briley@pierre-fabre.imagenet.fr).

Call for papers—6th European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care, 29-31 March 2001, Bologna, Italy

Further details: BMA/BJM Conference Unit, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, UK (tel: +44 (0) 20 7383 6409; fax: +44 (0) 20 7383 6869; email: quality@bma.org.uk; website: www.quality.bmjpg.com).

6th European Conference on Experimental AIDS Research (ECEAR '2001), 23-26 June 2001, Heriott-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK

Further details: ECEAR '2001 Conference Secretary, Division of Retrovirology, NIBSC, Blanche Lane, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 3QG, UK.

International Congress of Sexually Transmitted Infections, 24-27 June 2001, Berlin, Germany

Further details: Congress Partner GmbH, Krausenstrasse 63, D-10117, Berlin, Germany (tel: +49-30-204 500 41; fax: +49-30-204 500 42; email: berlin@cpcb.de).

10th International Congress on Behçet's Disease will be held in Berlin 27-29 June 2002

Further details: Professor Ch Zouboulis (email: zoubbere@zedat.fu-berlin.de).